

TABULATING MACHINE FOR BUREAU OF STATISTICS.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

A COPY OF A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHIEF OF THE BUREAU
OF STATISTICS SUBMITTING AN ESTIMATE OF APPROPRIATION
FOR RENTAL OF A TABULATING MACHINE.

JANUARY 6, 1902.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be
printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, December 19, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for the favorable consideration of Congress copy of a communication from the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics, Treasury Department, submitting an estimate of appropriation, \$1,500, for the rental of a tabulating machine, including the care of the machine and its retention in proper working condition by those to whom the sum for its lease is paid.

Respectfully,

H. A. TAYLOR,
Acting Secretary.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
BUREAU OF STATISTICS,
Washington, November 1, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to recommend that my estimates for the expenses of the Bureau of Statistics for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1902, be amended by the insertion of the following line:

For rental of tabulating machine..... \$1,500

The rapid growth in our foreign commerce, the great demands upon the Bureau for information, the importance of a prompt presentation of the monthly reports of imports and exports, and the advantage of economizing labor and increasing accuracy all suggest the adoption and adaptation of machinery to the work of the Bureau where practicable. The fact that very large numbers of these machines have been used by the United States Census Office, both in 1890 and 1900, and that they have also been used in the census work of other countries, and are now in use in some of the great railway and business offices of the country, seems, in my opinion, to justify an attempt to adapt the machines to the work of the Bureau and, if necessary, to so adjust the form of returns to the Bureau that the machine may be utilized in their tabulation.

With this in view, I have recommended that the Treasury Department call for a special examination by the United States Civil Service Commission for a clerk expert in statistical work and skilled in the use of the electrical tabulating machines. My purpose is, if such clerk can be obtained, to thoroughly test, with his assistance, the feasibility of the use of the machines in the tabulating work of this Bureau. For this experiment one machine will be required, and I therefore respectfully recommend that the above-named sum be inserted in the estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1902, for the rental of such machine, the sum to include the care of the machine and its retention in proper working condition by those to whom the sum for its lease is paid. The sum which I have named for rental is, I am informed by the company, identical with that paid by the Census Office for their lease. The experience of the past few years in both public offices and private business establishments is that the application of properly perfected machinery to tabulating work economizes not only time but brain power, and renders practicable the application to more important work of much valuable labor hitherto utilized in mere mechanical computations.

Respectfully, yours,

O. P. AUSTIN,
Chief of Bureau.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

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